



## ***Medicare and Prescription Drugs***

Starting in May 2004, you may qualify for a drug discount card if you have Medicare. However, you do **not** need a drug discount card if you get your drugs through D.C. Medicaid.

### **What are drug discount cards?**

These cards can help you save money on your prescriptions. With a card, you can buy drugs at lower prices. However, you must still pay for part of each prescription.

You can get a free card if you get less than \$1,047 each month (\$1,405 if you are married). You may also get a \$600 credit on your card to help pay for drugs.

### **What if I already have D.C. Medicaid?**

You cannot get a drug discount card if you get your drugs through D.C. Medicaid. Instead, use your D.C. Medicaid card to get your drugs.

There are special rules that apply to persons on Medicaid Spend-Down. Please call the Spend-Down Unit on (202) 698-4202 for more information.

### **Are all the cards the same?**

Private companies offer many different cards. Not all cards cover the same drugs or offer the same discounts. Also, different cards work at different drug stores. Choose the right one for you.

Only choose a card if it has a “**Medicare-approved**” seal. If you have to buy a card, it should never cost more than \$30 each year.

### **Who should I call with questions?**

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to learn more about the new cards. You can also call (202) 739-0668 to talk to a counselor. The counselor can help you pick a card.

Also, D.C. Medicaid may pay your Medicare Part B monthly premiums. Please call D.C. Medicaid on (202) 724-5506 to find out more.